

**MAYOR ROBERT F. SULLIVAN**  
**INAUGURAL ADDRESS – JANUARY 1, 2024**

Good morning to you all and Happy New Year.

Madam President, Mr. Clerk, Congressman Lynch, Distinguished members of the City Council and School Committee, State Representatives Cassidy, DuBois and Mendes, State Senator Brady, Plymouth County Officials, Father Matt, and Fellow Brocktonians - It is truly an honor to stand before you to begin my third term as Mayor of Brockton.

I wish to thank the City Clerk, Tim Cruise, and his staff for their efforts to make this day so special as we officially organize our local government.

The work of a Mayor is a singular responsibility, but the accomplishments are realized by a great team. Right beside me every day with encouragement and support is my family. I am grateful they are here this morning and I ask that you all join me in thanking them. They are there at night when the phone rings and Dad needs to leave the house. They are there when I am away at meetings or conferences, and they are there each morning to encourage me to meet the challenges of the day.

My wife, Maria, and our children, Tommy, Grace & William – thank you for your love, guidance and daily support.

My parents, Robert & Susan Sullivan, thank you for teaching me to work hard, be kind, help others, and always do the right thing.

My sisters, Kara Briggs & Suzanne Jacobus; my brother Ryan; My In-Laws (Anthony & Lorraine Luizzi) and Sister-in-Law Annie Luizzi, I truly thank you all for your years of support.

To the current and new members of the City Council & School Committee, Congratulations – I look forward to working with you in collaboration for the residents, business owners and students of Brockton.

To the former Councilors and SC Members I thank you all for your public service to our City.

To the State Delegation – I look forward to continuing our efforts together to better Brockton.

To all of our City and School employees — I THANK YOU all for the services that you all provide on a daily basis.

To the Clergy and Religious leaders - I thank you for all that you do to serve our community.

To the Mayor's office Team and Chief of Staff Sydne Marrow – I am thankful for your efforts every single day. Your dedication, professionalism, and results-driven efforts are phenomenal.

To all Brocktonians – I am so honored and privileged to be your Mayor. Brockton is truly a special place with wonderful people who live and work here.

As I was preparing for this address, I contemplated the meaning of our famous and enduring city motto, the “City of Champions,” and what it has meant to us as Brocktonians during my four years as Mayor.

When I stood before you in this spot in January of 2020 and spoke of a hopeful future, we had no idea that a few short weeks later, we would be faced with a global pandemic that would change our city and our world. During that time, however, the meaning of the “City of Champions” revealed itself again and again. From our public safety and public health workers

who were on the frontlines every day, to our educators who adjusted and pivoted and found new ways to educate our students, to our healthcare providers and partners in the non-profit sector who responded to challenges daily, the fighting spirit of Brocktonians shone through daily and we emerged a stronger and better City.

That spirit of fighting through adversity and emerging a better Brockton is at the heart of our motto, at the heart of our “City of Champions”, and at the heart of my pledge to you for my next term as Mayor – in all facets of our government, in all departments, and in all corners of this great city, we will fight to be better, stronger, and more resilient – each and every day.

These last two years have been transformational for our city. As you look around today, hundreds of millions of dollars – both public and private – are being invested in our future. Just steps from here, dozens of market rate housing units are nearing completion, adding to the hundreds already inhabited by residents who are part of a renaissance of our downtown, where Brocktonians are living, working, and making our downtown a more vibrant, livable, and walkable modern urban area.

That investment and residential development is being met with unprecedented investment by the city in our own facilities, thanks to the support of our exceptional Congressman - Stephen Lynch, his Federal Delegation partners (Sen. Markey & Sen. Warren), our Plymouth County Commissioners (Hanley, Wright & Valenzola), County Treasurer O'Brien, and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

What that means for us in Brockton is that together we are harnessing the energy and support of the Federal government, working with our State legislators and other leaders at all levels of government, and making historic investments in our city so that Brockton can become one of the leading cities in the Commonwealth – a place where a diverse group of citizens can live, work, and thrive.

Starting with this majestic historic city hall, built during 1892-1894, which within weeks will be covered with scaffolding and will be the site of a \$10 million renovation and upgrade, including having fresh air circulating for the first time in the building's history, our investment in our "City of Champions" is positioning Brockton to be a destination for investment.

Investors from all across the United States have visited and are investing in Brockton. It has been my pleasure to partner with Floridian, Mr. Brian Kahn, the owner of the Brockton Rox, who has decided to increase his investment in our City by bringing professional baseball to Brockton. Next spring, the 'New England Knockouts' will play their first game at Campanelli Stadium, another major step forward in making Brockton a first-class New England city and another sign that we are open for business and are willing to work with those who are eager to work with us.

In addition to our City Hall, major ARPA renovation projects are underway at our Mary Cruise Kennedy Council on Aging senior center, the War Memorial Building, the nearby Cosgrove Pool, and parks and playgrounds in each of our City's wards. We are investing Millions of dollars in improving, modernizing, and upgrading our facilities so that our future Brocktonians can enjoy a City of which we can all be proud of.

As Mayor, I was also able to commit \$2m of ARPA funds to 43 different non-profit organizations (an average

\$50k per organization). These organizations do so much within our Community each and every day.

I am so excited to update you on our progress of our New Public Safety Building to be located on Warren Avenue & West Elm Street (the former site of the Old Brockton High School). This state-of-the-art modern building will house 4 City Departments (Fire, Police, BEMA, Information Technology) and it will be an awesome addition to our downtown, greatly benefitting all employees, visitors, and the neighborhood. The current Warren Ave layout (from Spring Street to Belmont Street) will be transformed into a 2-Way street to accommodate the new building. You will be seeing in the near future the building construction and certain original architectural features of the old BHS incorporated into the new Public Safety Building with opening planned for Summer of 2025.

Thanks to State funding obtained by State Rep. Gerry Cassidy, we will soon be properly honoring the late undisputed middleweight boxing champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler. A stunning memorial statue will be installed in the Spring at the new Marvelous Marvin Hagler Park, next to the former Petronelli Gym where the

champ trained, which has recently been transformed into a new 19 unit apartment building. This park and statue are a fitting tribute to a Brockton and world-wide sports icon.

These ongoing development projects will enhance our Community and further foster our City's identity. As such, we have clearly succeeded together.

However, the news, of course, is not always good. Serious challenges emerge – like the pandemic – that require that “City of Champions” fighting spirit to survive. But each time one emerges, we come together to address the issue in a collaborative manner.

Recently, the school department revealed a FY'23 deficit that again has required us to channel the best of us. But we do not give up. We fight through that challenge and, with the assistance and legislative support of the City Council, we will be able to emerge from this serious fiscal challenge.

During this time of fiscal deficit, I am thankful for the work undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer Troy Clarkson and his team, City Solicitor Megan Bridges and the law department, the City Auditor's office, Assistant



Auditor Irene Giannopoulos, the City's Assessor and Treasurer offices, the School Business office, and Acting-Superintendent Dr. Jim Cobbs. Their combined efforts have been extremely helpful during this difficult time.

I also wish to thank the Department of Revenue (DOR) and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for working with the City and the School District. We will continue to work together in the months ahead.

I fully support and look forward to the findings of the School deficit Investigation and Audit. We need to determine the system failures and take corrective action to assure that this can never happen again – we owe it to our students, our educators, and our tax payers!

We will face difficult and challenging times ahead. That is a fact. However, together we must work hard to overcome obstacles and strengthen our collective resolves. Today, I ask all local elected officials to join me in pledging to work together cooperatively and collaboratively for the good of the City - that effort and the ensuing beneficial results will go far beyond our collective years of public service.

I am the Mayor for all who live in Brockton. Those residing in homes and those facing homelessness. It is my belief that we need to address the increase in our homeless population with a compassionate and humanitarian approach. Working with Father Bills & Mainspring and supporting the need for wrap-round services is pivotal to providing services and opportunities.

At the same time, we as a City, need to ensure safety to our residents, visitors and business owners and address the ongoing quality of life issues. I am committed to collaborating with our elected officials, business associations, social services organizations, and health providers to further enhance the Mayor's Homeless Task Force that I re-engaged when I first took office.

Transparency and accountability have been the hallmark of my first two terms, and I pledge to continue that commitment to being an open, responsive, and engaged Mayor.

I will continue to be out in the community and have an open door in the Mayor's office. I will continue outreach through social media and provide updates through Brockton Community Access (BCA). I recognize that my

most important job is that of a steward of the public trust and I will continue to work every day to maintain that trust and confidence.

The future is bright – the challenges are real but TOGETHER in collaboration we will create positive and everlasting change within the City of Brockton. We Will join together as one Community to build a better City for all of us.

So, onward we go – together – to another two years of meeting challenges together, of finding solutions together, and of rallying together with that fighting Brockton spirit to move our “City of Champions” forward.

It is through our collective collaborative efforts that will allow Brockton to thrive in 2024 and beyond.

I thank you all for supporting me and encouraging me through the peaks and valleys of this job. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. May God bless our great City, our Commonwealth, and these United States of America.

Have a wonderful afternoon and a Happy & Healthy New Year. Thank you.



